GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1656
ANSWERED ON:27.02.2003
UNCENSORED PROGRAMMES FROM OUTSIDE COUNTRY
AMAR ROY PRADHAN

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether some Indian as well as foreign companies are telecasting uncensored programmes into India from outside the country by uplinking in violation of Indian Broadcasting Regulatory Laws;

(b) if so, the action taken against such companies as per laws;

(c) whether the Government are aware that obscenity and nudity are continuously being exhibited in Fashion T.V. Channels;

(d) if so, the details of action taken/proposed to be taken in this regard; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefore?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a) & (b): There is no pre-censorship of TV programmes. Programmes of all Satellite Channels,transmitted or re-transmitted through Cable Network, are required to adhere to the provisions of Programme Code and Advertising Code prescribed under Cable Television Network (Regulation) Act 1995 and Rules framed thereunder. Programme Code prohibits, inter-alia, carriage of programmes, which offend good taste or decency, contain anything obscene and which are derogatory to women. Action for violation of provisions of the Code can be taken by any authorized officer, i.e. SDM, DM, Commissioner of Police or any other officer notified in the Official Gazette by Central Government or StateGovernment. The Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and rules framed thereunder also prohibit carriage of any programme in the Cable Service, which contravenes the provisions of the Cinematograph Act 1952 or is not suitable for unrestricted public exhibition. The issue of pre-certificationof films telecast on TV Channels is being examined by this Ministry in consultation with Ministry of Law.

To look into the violations of Programme Code and Advertising Code, Government has constitutedtwo Committees under Section 20 of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995. These Committees, either suo-moto or on receipt of complaints, examine cases of violation of the Codes.

(c) to (e): Concerns regarding content telecast on FTV was taken up with FTV in February - March 2001FTV agreed to modify its programming to mitigate these concerns.

In February 2002, the issue of broadcasting of Rio Carnival 2002 was taken up with FTV whoconveyed their apologies for telecasting this programme and immediately removed it from their programme list.